(2) FOREST.

18. The present system of Forest administration in the State, its defects and certain suggestions for its improvement.

Mr. V. Ramakrishna Sastri B. A., B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Trivandrum) said that it would be a national calamity if, through neglect or the desire to show a large revenue every succeeding year, the forests were overworked by the department. The functions of the department were conservancy and exploitation. After explaining the general principles which had to be kept in mind in carrying out the double functions mentioned above, he stated that they were not being properly attended to. The causes for such a state of affairs as enumerated by the Member were :—

(1) The department was obsessed with the desire to show increase of revenue every year and as a result the permanent interests of the country were subordinated to temporary ends.

(2) The forests were not worked on any recognised scientific plan.

(3) Sufficient attention was not being paid to the organization and improvement of the forests.

(4) The Government were not following any settled policy in the administration of the forests.

(5) The felling of trees was indiscriminately done and there was the consequent denudation of forests.

(6) A good deal of the time of the trained staff was being devoted to such work as the collection and transport of timber from the forests to the depots, conducting the sale of timber in depots, disposal of applications for free passes, conduct of forest cases, &c., and their legitimate work suffered.

(7) Sufficient attention was not being paid to tap other sources of revenue such as minor produce.

(8) Only the better known species of timber were now being removed from the forests.

In support of each of the above statements the Member gave certain facts and figures and requested that his representations might be looked into and the defects removed.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-5 P. M.

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